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NOTE ON לול, Ps. xxvii. 13, &c.

THE Rev. I. Harris cited in this REVIEW, vol. I, p. 240, note 1, two or three instances of words in which the usual punctuation represents two variant readings. A similar explanation had suggested itself to me, before I had read that article, of the peculiar dots above and beneath לול, Ps. xxvii. 13. The fact that this is the only instance of dots beneath letters, coupled with the Massoretic note that the ו must have a dot beneath, but not at the top, leads to the assumption that the word represents two variants, viz. לו, which is neither easier nor more difficult to interpret than the whole word as it is before us, and לל, which gives obviously an excellent and readily intelligible sense. Possibly then, the first half of the word was originally dotted beneath only, and the latter half only from above, so as to indicate the elimination of either the one half or the other. (It would probably be going too far to assume that the astounding punctuation ויחלקם or ויחלקם, 1 Chron. xxiii. 6, xxiv. 3, indicates a variant of ויחלקם which read in xxiii. 6 למחלקו, and in xxiv. 3 צדוק,.)

Another instance of a variant reading between לל and לו may be in Job xli. 4. Dillmann observes that לל is too prosaic, and that the reading לו rendered "should I be silent of him?" is no improvement. But is not the reading לו possible, if perhaps not an improvement, if rendered "O that I could be silent of, or contemplate in mute astonishment" (cp. Gen. xxiv. 21)? Baer, in his critical edition of Job, prints in the marginal Massorah לו קרי; but it is a question whether he had any authority for so pointing the word, and if he had any MS. so pointed, the authority of that authority is open to criticism.

For variants of לל and לו see Massorah magna to Lev. xi. 21; also Norzi in *Minchath Shay* on Ps. c. 3.

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